

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to display in the course of my speech some small bottles of liquid that will demonstrate what I am talking about today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to show us these innocent-looking small bottles with an eye dropper of three types of liquid. This is liquid nicotine. The eye droppers are used to put that into the cartridges for electronic cigarettes, otherwise known as e-cigarettes. There are some versions that look the size of a cigarette that already have the liquid nicotine contained in them, but there are many flavors that are otherwise contained in these kinds of dispensers.

When our commerce committee had a hearing on e-cigarettes, I asked the question: Are these childproof? The answer was: No.

I asked the question: If these are not childproof, is the concentration of nicotine in these sufficient that it could harm a child? The answer was: Yes.

As a matter of fact, there are varying degrees of concentration of liquid nicotine in these bottles, but some of them are as concentrated as 540 milligrams of liquid nicotine. If a small child got into these bottles, which are not childproof, and ingested this, that child would either be deathly ill or dead. If that child gets into it and it spills on that child, it will be absorbed through the skin and likewise, according to the concentration of the nicotine, the child will be very ill.

Obviously, when we had the commerce committee hearing on e-cigarettes, I asked the question—once they said these are not childproof—of the e-cigarette industry, which was represented at the witness panel: Do you have any objection? They said: No.

So last Thursday a group of Senators filed a bill that will require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to start and adopt a rule that will cause these to be sold in childproof containers. This is a no-brainer. This is common sense.

Why hasn't it been addressed before? It defies common sense because of the danger to children. Already, in this year 2014, between January and the end of May, there were almost 2,000 calls for liquid nicotine poisoning to the poison centers around the country—just in that 5-month period. We already have a recorded incident 1 year ago or so of one child having been killed. This ought to be not only a no-brainer, it ought to fly through this Congress and get the CPSC to get on with regulating it administratively.

What is another reason? Well, look what this one is called, with a picture, Banana; this one is Naked Peach; this one is Juice E Juice. Appealing to kids? How about Banana Split or Cot-

ton Candy or Kool-Laid Grape or Skittles or Sweet Tart or Gummi Bear or Fruity Loops or Rocket Pop or Hawaiian Punch? That is what is going on.

There happens to be a part of government that is supposed to try to protect the public from danger. This is obviously something that ought to be done.

There is a larger question, and that is the question of e-cigarettes. That is not the subject of this legislation. With all due haste, the CPSC—and, oh, by the way, why the CPSC instead of the Food and Drug Administration? Because the Consumer Product Safety Commission is vested with the authority to create container packaging and safety packaging. So if Tylenol is childproof in its packaging, if Drano is, if any other obvious item that you want to childproof is, then we best have this done and done fast. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is the way to do it.

I hope by the attention this received in the hearing 2 or 3 weeks ago, plus the fact of a group of Senators now coming together and filing this legislation, the CPSC isn't going to wait around until we pass it, but it will get on with the problem.

There is a larger question. This is on an additional but related issue, and that is the advisability of e-cigarettes and the way they are being marketed.

As a matter of fact, on e-cigarettes there is some packaging where it looks like a white cigarette. Guess what is happening. It is now like we have seen this movie before. This is a rerun of what went on 20 years ago when, finally, because of tobacco products, the advertising on television and radio was banned by law because it was geared at getting young people hooked on tobacco. There were very attractive young models who were shown smoking cigarettes, wonderfully beautiful backgrounds on the television and the beautiful music on radio, and, indeed, there were advertisements with cartoons aimed at what? It came out in all of the tobacco wars that these were aimed at young people, getting them hooked on tobacco so they would be lifelong tobacco smokers and it would be tough to kick the habit. So a couple of decades ago we went through that fight and we banned the television and radio advertising of tobacco.

Well, guess what is happening now—beautiful and handsome models with the e-cigarette, cartoons aimed at young people with e-cigarettes. So another question this Senate should consider is banning the advertising that is obviously directed at young people to try to get them hooked on this nicotine product so that it is so hard for them to get off of the nicotine addiction over the course of time.

I can tell you that the commerce committee is going to stay on this, and the first thing we can do is give a little sweet talk to the CPSC to get moving on the regulatory process of a rule to require the childproof packaging of

this liquid nicotine. The next thing down the road is to stop the advertising that is being aimed directly at young people on the whole issue of electronic cigarettes.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLORIDA'S EVERGLADES

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I am just busting out with ideas I wish to discuss with the Senate. Since we don't have any other Senators standing in line, I will share where I have been today and what is of urgency for the environmental community and particularly the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Government.

We have been spending hundreds of billions of dollars to restore the Florida Everglades. This is a natural resource that is unique in all of the world, and its environmental effects are felt far beyond Florida and the United States—indeed, on the entire planet. It is a source of water that starts southwest of Orlando in a little creek called Shingle Creek and flows south through the Kissimmee chain of lakes, into the Kissimmee River, into Lake Okeechobee, the big lake in southern Florida. From there the water then flows further to the south in what is termed the River of Grass—the Florida Everglades. From there it moves very slowly through all of that grass, and it eventually ends up on the southern tip of the peninsula in Florida Bay by the Florida Keys or to the southwest of Florida, coming out through what is an area known as the Shark River Slough into the Gulf of Mexico. It is a unique natural resource.

I once had Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairman of the environment committee, down there.

We travel in the Everglades in an airboat since there is little depth to the water. Of course, it is all watered grass. You skim across the top of the water in an airboat propelled by a big airplane propeller.

As we took Senator BOXER across this River of Grass, in the midst of what looked like a meadow in front of the airboat, suddenly she saw a doe and her fawn going through the meadow. Only this time they were obviously not in a meadow; they were in water, and they were splashing in the water as they leapt away from the airboat.

It is a unique environmental, ecological treasure with so many endangered species there, and it is a discussion for another day, how invasive species are upsetting the ecological balance, such as the imported Burmese python,

which can get up to 20 feet long. Indeed, one that was 18 feet 8 inches was caught 6 months ago. Of course, they are at the top of the food chain. They attack alligators. The fur-bearing animals in the Everglades have diminished in population because they are being consumed by these beasts that have a ravenous appetite. But that is a subject for another day.

Hundreds of billions of dollars has been spent to restore it, restoring it to correct a mistake of mankind over the course of the last century when, after the huge hurricane in the 1920s that drowned 2,000 people in the Lake Okeechobee area, the whole idea was flood control: When it floods, get the water off the land. Send it to tidewater—the Atlantic in the east, the Gulf of Mexico in the west. But that messed around with Mother Nature, and as a result the whole of the Everglades started to dry up.

Fortunately, a lot of forward-thinking people—and I am merely a steward who has come along at the right time, at the right place—have continued this effort—the Corps of Engineers, the EPA, so many of the agencies of government, Cabinet Secretaries, such as Ken Salazar at the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture Secretary. It goes on and on. The effort as a 50/50 partnership in funding this restoration has been partnered by the State of Florida and the U.S. Government, and it continues.

Alas, there is now oil drilling in the Everglades. The subject of today's meeting in Fort Myers, FL, was to gather a very courageous county commission from Collier County, their chairman, and representatives of the community, to come in to educate me on the aspects of drilling and the recent brouhaha between the State environmental agency and the Texas wildcatter, the Dan A. Hughes Company; they started fracking without the proper permits and without revealing the mechanism and the material they were using to frack.

Of course, most people have heard of fracking, but we hear of it in terms of North Dakota or Oklahoma or Texas or Pennsylvania. But Florida is not built on that kind of substrate where they are going in and breaking up that rock in the fracking to release oil and natural gas, which has now made us such a tremendous producer of both of those in the United States. No, Florida is on a different type of substrate. It is built on a honeycomb of limestone that supports the surface by it being filled with freshwater. It is not those solid rocks where the fracking for oil and gas is being done and with the high jets with chemicals breaking up that rock to release the natural gas. No, this is porous limestone formed millions of years ago by the shelled critters that ultimately fossilized. It is this honeycomb being supported by freshwater that is the substructure of the State of Florida. So we don't have any idea what this fracking is going to do not only to the

quality of the water but also to the very support structure for the State.

Now, lo and behold, there are attempts for permits to drill in the 250,000-acre Big Cypress Federal preserve, which is part of the Everglades but is adjacent to the Everglades National Park. Therefore, it is time for the EPA of the Federal Government to get involved. It is time to question their authority in law as to what, after this kind of drilling is done to inject all of that stuff that is left over back down into this substrate of freshwater—what is that going to do under the Clean Water Act? What is it that could contaminate the source of drinking water? What is it going to do to the structure that upholds the surface of the State of Florida? And very importantly, since it is colocated right next to Everglades National Park and since it is a part of the area generally known as the Everglades, what is it going to do to the flora and fauna—in other words, all of that delicate ecosystem balance of the critters and the plants? What is it going to do to the very area that we are spending hundreds of billions of State taxpayer and Federal taxpayer money to restore? These are very legitimate questions.

Years ago the Collier family was very generous. They gave, fee simple to the U.S. Government, what is today the Big Cypress preserve. They retained the mineral rights. It was clearly their right to do so, and it was very generous of them to donate the property.

We have a national park ranger manager who manages that preserve. Now we have to look at what are the serious consequences of trying to convert those mineral rights that were reserved into drilling. The most immediate is that instead of seismic testing, another kind of vibration testing is expected to be done with thousands of tests in the Big Cypress Preserve. It is called thumping.

A vehicle comes in and apparently drops things onto the surface to create something—instead of seismic testing where an explosion is let off, to send down vibrations—and these triangulations, since they are doing thousands of these, would determine if there is oil there. Thus, another question that arises is, What is the environmental effect?

We definitely have a reason for the EPA, as an independent agency, for the Department of the Interior, which has jurisdiction over things such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Park Service, to get involved in this process and make some determinations, and if the answer is that there is not sufficient authority in law, to address it so that we can address it here as a matter of legislating law.

I wanted to make the Senate aware of this particular potential threat to the Florida Everglades.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. I wish to ask my colleagues as well as myself to think about how many times we have made pessimistic-sounding statements about America's future. I want to remind my colleagues and myself about what I see as excessive pessimism about our great country, because as public figures often what we say maybe has consequences—sometimes positive, sometimes negative. Our attitudes matter and the policies shaped by those attitudes can have an enormous impact for better or for worse on the lives of Americans.

President Ronald Reagan often expressed that America's best days were yet to come. Twenty-five years later I still believe in Reagan's optimism for America. In fact, President Reagan even ended his final letter to the American people: "I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead." His agenda reflected that optimism and his policies worked towards a freer, more prosperous America.

But it seems such optimism about America's future might be out of fashion these days. Instead of searching for a silver lining, many pundits and politicians see nothing but clouds. For instance, after decades of hearing about how we are about to run out of fossil fuel, making energy in the future much more expensive and scarce, improved technologies have unleashed enormous reserves of natural gas. This increase in supply has driven down costs and caused electrical generation to switch from coal to natural gas. That in turn has led to substantial reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. That seems to be a silver lining.

Now there are clouds on the horizon. However, rather than to celebrate the fact that the free market is achieving one of their long-held goals, many environmentalists want to ban the technology that led to the shale gas revolution based on unscientific claims of potential groundwater contamination. It seems that it would be a terrible shame to let all of that planning for scarcity of energy to go to waste. So I guess we better not take advantage of this Nation's resources.

On another matter, we hear a lot of hand-wringing about the decline in manufacturing jobs, but this is partly due to advances in manufacturing process which seems to require fewer more-skilled and therefore higher-paying jobs. The growth in American advanced manufacturing will require job training to fill those higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs, and of course we have community colleges throughout our country